

March 23, 2000

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows.

March 14, 2000—Rollcall vote 46, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3699, designating the Joel T. Broyhill Post Office Building, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 47, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3701, designating the Joseph L. Fisher Post Office, I would have voted "yea."

March 15, 2000—Rollcall vote 48 on agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 1000, The Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 49, on passage of H.R. 3843, the Small Business Authorization Act, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 50, on the motion to instruct Conferees for H.R. 1501, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, I would have voted nay.

March 16, 2000—Rollcall vote 51, on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 441, providing for consideration of the Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 52, on agreeing to the Watt Amendment, I would have voted nay. Rollcall vote 53, on agreeing to Boehlert substitute amendment, I would have voted nay. Rollcall vote 54, on the motion to recommit with instructions, I would have voted nay. Rollcall vote 55, on passage of H. 2372, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000, I would have voted yea.

SALUTING THE NCAA DIVISION III
NATIONAL CHAMPION CALVIN
COLLEGE KNIGHTS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the NCAA Division III National Basketball Champion Calvin College Knights from Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Knights capped off their magical season on March 18, by defeating a very strong and talented Wisconsin-Eau Claire squad in the championship game, 79-74. The Knights finished their dream season with a

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

30-2 overall record enroute to the school's second national basketball title.

Under the tutelage of fourth-year Head Coach Kevin VandeStreek and assistants Tim VanDyke and Chris Fear, the Knights provided excitement every time they hit the floor this season. Not only did these young men provide numerous memorable moments for the Calvin faithful, they did so with a strong sense of teamwork both on and off the floor.

Members of the 1999-2000 Calvin College Knights include Kyle Smith, Bryan Foltice, Jon Potvin, Aaron Winkle, Dave Bartels, Nate Burgess, Nate Karsten, Tim Bruinsma, Jason DeKuiper, Jeremy Veenstra, Brian Krosschell, Nick Ploegstra, Jon VanderPlas, Derek Kleinheksel, Josh Tubergen, and Rob Dykstra.

National championships are becoming the norm at Calvin College. In addition to the men's basketball championship, the women's cross country team has captured national titles the past two seasons. And if there were a championship for fans, Calvin would also be in the running for that title. Calvin College fans, also known as the best fans anywhere, are also to be commended for the tremendous support they provide to the student-athletes that represent Calvin College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting these young men for their fine conduct and stellar play throughout this storybook season. Not only did they serve as fine representatives for Calvin, they also served as ambassadors for all of West Michigan and for their league, the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Congratulations and best wishes to everyone associated with the Calvin College Knights!

TURKEY REMAINS A STRATEGIC
U.S. ALLY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's trip to South Asia, home to one-fifth of the world's population and to two nuclear powers, reminds us of the volatility of the world around us. It reminds us as well of our obligation, as the world's remaining superpower and as the world's greatest exponent of democracy, to seek a strengthening of the democratic principles wherever we are.

Over the years, we have forged a network of allies who have shared this burden with us, often at considerable human and economic cost to themselves. Few of our allies have been as important to us as Turkey.

During the Cold War era, Turkey guarded NATO's southern flank. For five decades, Tur-

key stood as a bulwark against the Soviet Union's southern expansion. Its soldiers stood side by side with ours in Korea and its land was utilized by our armed forces for bases.

During the Gulf War, Turkey was integral to our strategy for blunting and then defeating the aggression launched by Saddam Hussein. Turkish bases were the launching pad for the northern attacks and our large base at Incirlik continues to offer protection for Iraqi opposition as part of Operation Northern Watch. Turkey's alliance with us cost it \$35 billion in foregone trade and pipeline fees—a sum whose equivalence in the U.S. context would be \$900 billion.

Today, even as the Cold War is a decade gone, Turkey remains one of our most steadfast and crucial allies. Their contributions to the United States, and the policies we seek to implement remain crucial to us. Let me offer several examples:

Turkey is the only secular democracy in the Islamic world. At a time when Islamic fundamentalism and its attendant anti-American stance are on the rise, Turkey provides a model for the co-existence of Islam and a pluralistic society.

Turkey is central to the containment of Saddam Hussein and ultimate removal of him from office. There can be no successful anti-Saddam strategy without the full involvement and support to Turkey.

Turkey was the first Muslim nation to recognize Israel and remains one of only a few Muslim nations to establish full diplomatic relations with that nation. The two have forged close military and political linkages that serve as a means to help bring peace and security to the Middle East.

Turkey will be home to new pipelines carrying oil and gas from the Caspian Basin to U.S. and Western markets. Turkey is integral to our long-term energy security.

Turkey is partnering with the United States in an effort to provide economic and technical support to the emerging democracies from the former Soviet Union in order to help ensure their economic viability and democratic future.

Turkey works with the United States in trying to stabilize the situation in the Balkans, and Turkey has taken the lead in trying to rebuild Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, the above examples demonstrate the fundamental importance of maintaining, and in fact expanding, strong U.S.-Turkish economic, defense and political ties.

I am pleased that we continue to have a good and strong relationship with Turkey. It is vital in today's volatile world that such relations continue.

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